iv) Recovery of compensation amount ordered by the redressal agency through certificate case as arrears of land revenue;

v) Provision for issue of interim orders by the redressal agencies;

vi) Establishment of consumer protection council at district level;

vii) Enhancement of the capabilities of the consumer forums, strengthening them with more powers, streamlining the procedures and widening the scope of the Act for quick disposal of the complaints.

viii) Simplification of the procedures for selection of the Members of the State Commission and President and Members of the District Forum.

ix) Empowering the senior most Member to perform as President in the absence of the regular President of the National Commission, State Commission and the District Forum for smooth and uninterrupted functioning of these forums.

(c) No specific amendment has been made to make provisions in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 empowering the consumers to deal with the sellers/service providers residing out side India.

Funding by Financial Institutions for NER

1609. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funding by the Financial Institutions for the development programme of the North Eastern Region has been abysmally low for some time past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the volume of fund flow to NE Region for the past three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the reasons for the low rate of investment in the NE Region have been identified and if, so the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard for mobilising funds flow, in the aforesaid region?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Repair of Dhodar Ali Road in Assam

1610. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by NEC to rebuild and repair the Dhodar Ali Road in Assam;

(b) whether the rebuilding and repairing work would be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) whether the National Development Council has decided to convert the Dhodar Ali Road into a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) NEC have sanctioned Rs. 7.7 crores to date, for the purpose.

(b) The road portion of the work is likely to be completed within the Financial year 2002-03. The bridge portion is in progress and is proposed to be completed by 2003-04.

(c) The National Development Council does not administer the subject matter. This subject is dealt by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and they have advised that presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways, due to fund constraints.

Assent of Parliament before disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

1611. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd;

(b) if so, the proposed modalities of disinvestment in selling shares;

(c) whether Government would offer the shares to ONGC and IOC, if not, the reasons therefor;